

TII asks govt to consult farmers prior ban

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The Tobacco Institute of India (TII) on Monday requested the Union government to undertake prior consultation with farmers and other industry stakeholders and include stakeholder representatives in the official Indian delegation to the FCTC COP 8. The country's tobacco farmers have also appealed to the government to hold consultation with their representatives before the conference to ensure that their livelihood dependence on tobacco is not undermined by extreme and unilateral decisions at the FCTC COP8. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Conference of Parties (COP8) meeting, presided over by India, is being held in October to discuss and adopt measures in relation to the Articles of the Convention. "Framing of tobacco control policies at the conference without the involvement of tobacco farmers, whose livelihood is seriously threatened, is unfair and unprincipled with the risk of their genuine concerns being subverted and severely compromised," said director TII, Syed Mahmood Ahmad.